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PP RUEHDE RUEHGR  
DE RUEHPO #0094 0462108  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 152108Z FEB 06  
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8069  
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAO/AMCONSUL CURACAO 0960  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RHEBAAA/DOE WASHDC  
RUEHHH/OPEC COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 000094

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR: LLUFTIG, EB/ESC/IEC/EPC, DOE FOR  
PUMPHREY, WARD, AND ALOCKWOOD, USGS FOR JEAN NOE WEAVER,  
CHRISTOPHER SCHENK, AND PHIL HAYS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EPET](#) [ENRG](#) [ETRD](#) [ECON](#) [EINV](#) [KTDB](#) [PREL](#) [PBTS](#) [NS](#)

SUBJECT: NEW BIDDING ROUND OPENED FOR OIL EXPLORATION OFF  
SURINAME'S COAST

REF: 05 PARAMARIBO 704

1. Suriname's Minister of Natural Resources, Gregory  
Rusland, announced to the press last week that Suriname's  
state-owned oil company, Staatsolie has opened a new round  
of bidding to international oil companies interested in off  
shore oil exploration. This follows an earlier successful  
signing in October 2005 of an agreement with Occidental  
Petroleum Corp. (OXY) of Los Angeles (see reftel). This  
will be the fourth round of bidding since the estimate in  
2000 by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) that the  
Guyana Basin off the coast of Suriname may contains oil and  
gas reserves of approximately 15 billion barrels. Earlier  
deals have been concluded with Spanish firm Repsol YPF and  
Danish firm Maersk. Fields currently under active  
exploration have advanced to the next phase of the process,  
which involves the acquisition and processing of 3D seismic  
data for a more reliable interpretation of the oil strata  
and to further define the exploration potential of the  
area.

2. In this current round, blocks known as 15, 36 and 37  
are up for tender and their dimensions are 2,552 square  
kilometers (sq. km.); 3,407 sq. km.; and 8,758 sq. km,  
respectively. A data package containing acquired and  
processed 2D seismic data from 2005 is available from  
Staatsolie for purchase at a cost of 25,000 USD. Potential  
bidders are under no obligation to purchase the package.  
Any agreement will be subject to a production-sharing  
contract with Staatsolie. The deadline to bid on any of  
the blocks is July 2, 2006. All interested companies must  
submit, along with their bid, a company profile, technical  
and financial reports for the past two years, and latest  
audit report, which should be no more than two years old.

3. Interested bidders can contact Staatsolie for details  
at:

Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname N.V.  
Attention: Marny Daal Vogelland, Manager E&P Contracts  
Adhinstraat 21  
Paramaribo Suriname  
Phone: (597) 439781  
Fax: (597) 530093  
Email: madaal@staatsolie.com or bidding@staatsolie.com  
Website: www.staatsolie.com

BARNES